

T-686
Joseph J. Seymour House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1870

Named for the Seymour family who owned this property from 1898 to 1952, this house evidently dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The title research indicates the house was erected during the ownership of Samuel S. Harrison, Sr., who owned the house and lot directly north, or his children M. Olivia Burns, Elizabeth F. Gray, and Samuel S. Harrison, Jr. The property remained in family hands until Joseph J. Seymour acquired title in 1898 for \$450.

The Seymour house is a modest two-story, two-part stepped frame house that stands in a row of contemporary mid to late nineteenth-century dwellings on St. Mary's Square. The stepped profile of the structure is common for the period and is repeated throughout St. Michaels. Although the house has been remodeled with the addition of artificial siding and a colonial style entrance, it contributes to the period character of St. Mary's Square.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-686

Magi No. 2106862504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common SEYMOUR HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 404 St. Mary's Square ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 389

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 117

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-686

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Joseph J. Seymour house is located at 404 St. Mary's Square in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story frame house faces east with the gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1870, the two-story, two-bay house is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of aluminum siding. Attached to the south gable end of the main block is a slightly shorter two-story, two-bay wing. Both sections are covered with medium pitched, asphalt shingle gable roofs.

The east elevation of the main block is an asymmetrical two-bay facade with a side entrance and a flanking six-over-six sash window. The replacement front door is topped by a three-light transom and framed by a classical pedimented surround. Louvered shutters flank the adjacent window. The second floor is lighted by two unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, also hung with louvered shutters.

Piercing the north gable end is an interior end chimney. The eaves are slightly extended. To the south the slightly shorter two-story wing appears contemporary with the main block. Pairs of six-over-six sash windows light each floor, and an interior end chimney protrudes through the south gable end.

The balance of the exterior is finished in a like manner, and the interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-686

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Seymour house is a modest two-story, two-part stepped frame house that stands in a row of contemporary mid to late nineteenth-century houses on St. Mary's Square. The stepped profile of the dwelling is common for the period and repeated throughout St. Michaels. The house has been remodeled with the addition of artificial siding and a colonial style entrance, but despite the alterations it contributes to the period character of St. Mary's Square.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Named for the Seymour family who owned this property from 1898 to 1952, this house evidently dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The title research indicates the house was erected during the ownership of Samuel S. Harrison, who owned the house and lot directly north, or his children M. Olivia Burns, Elizabeth F. Gray, and Samuel S. Harrison, Jr. The property remained in family hands until Joseph J. Seymour acquired title in 1898 for \$450.(129/242)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-686

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			

D			

E			

F			

G			

H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization P. O. Box 5 date 1/8/89

street & number telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

JOSEPH J. SEYMOUR HOUSE

T-686

YEAR: 1963 VOL: 389 PAGE: 117

FROM: William H. Mothershead and Rosa A. Mothershead PRICE:

TO: Jules Grau and Margaret V. Grau

NOTES Begins at Elanora Barnhold; runs W 116 feet to Clifton Hope; N with Hope 34'3" to Ann C. Lee; E with Lee 116 feet to St. Mary's Square; S with the Square 34'3" to the beginning.

Conveyed to Mothershead by Seymour 1952, 301/35.

YEAR: 1952 VOL: 301 PAGE: 35

FROM: Eugene J. Seymour and Ruth Seymour (Henrico Cty, Va.) PRICE:

TO: William H. Mothershead and Rosa A. Mothershead

NOTES Same description.

To Seymour by Seymour 1947, 273/520

YEAR: 1947 VOL: 273 PAGE: 520

FROM: Joseph J. Seymour, widower PRICE:

TO: Eugene J. Seymour

NOTES Same description. With life estate for Joseph.

To Seymour by M. Olivia Burns 1898, 129/242.

YEAR: 1898 VOL: 129 PAGE: 242

FROM: M. Olivia Burns and James F. Burns PRICE: \$450

TO: Joseph J. Seymour

NOTES Same dimensions: 34'3" x 116'. Between Barnhold and Ann C. Lee.

Part of the land conveyed to M. Olivia Burns by her brother Samuel S. Harrison 1898, 129/182.

YEAR: 1898 VOL: 129 PAGE: 182

FROM: Samuel S. Harrison PRICE: \$200

TO: M. Olivia Burns

NOTES The lot conveyed is 42 feet wide by 116 feet in length. Lies between Barnhold and Ann C. Lee.

"Same" conveyed to Samuel S. Harrison by James F. Burns and M. Olivia Burns 1891, 115/78.

YEAR: 1891 VOL: 115 PAGE: 78

FROM: James F. Burns and M. Olivia Burns PRICE: \$200

TO: Samuel S. Harrison

NOTES Lot is 42 feet by 116 feet. "Being a portion of the property that descended to Samuel S. Harrison and M. Olivia Burns as heirs of their father Samuel S. Harrison, dcd" The remaining heir, Elizabeth F. Gray had previously conveyed her interest in the property.

YEAR: 1891 VOL: 115 PAGE: 79
FROM: Samuel S. Harrison and Martha L. Harrison PRICE:
TO: Workingmen's Building & Loan Assn. of St. Michaels
NOTES Mortgage for \$300 with lot as security.

YEAR: 1887 VOL: 106 PAGE: 47
FROM: Samuel S. Harrison, Martha L. James M. Burns & Mary O. PRICE:
TO: Workingmen's Building & Loan Assn. of St. Michaels
NOTES A mortgage for \$200 with the lot as security. The lot is said to be
41 FEET WIDE!

YEAR: 1887 VOL: 106 PAGE: 43
FROM: William Gray and Elizabeth F. Gray PRICE: \$100
TO: M. Olivia Burns and Samuel S. Harrison
NOTES Their 1/3 interest in a lot beginning at the SE corner of the heirs of
Thomas Porter; run SW along St. Mary's Square 40 feet to the NE corner of
Eleanore Barnhold, then 116' W to Clifton Hope; then 40 feet to Porter; then
116 feet to the beginning. Mary Olivia Burns, Elizabeth F Gray, and Samuel S.
Harrison were children and heirs of their father Samuel S. Harrison, dcd.
Conveyed to Samuel S. Harrison, dcd. by Thomas Keithley and Margaret Keithley
1848, 61/222.

YEAR: 1848 VOL: 61 PAGE: 231
FROM: Samuel S. Harrison PRICE:
TO: Thomas Keithley
NOTES Mortgage for \$400 secured by lot number 33.

YEAR: 1848 VOL: 61 PAGE: 222
FROM: Thomas Keithley and Margaret V. PRICE: \$400
TO: Samuel S. Harrison (Senior)
NOTES "All that lot number 33" "said to contain 100 square feet"
The price of \$400 seems rather high for this lot.

YEAR: 1834 VOL: 51 PAGE: 176
FROM: Joseph Ridgaway PRICE: \$50
TO: Thomas Keithley
NOTES A house and lot in St. Mary's Square adjoining the lots of Thomas
Keithley and Edward Blades. "100 square feet, more or less"
"That Joseph Ridgaway purchased of a certain Sarah Rigby".

YEAR: 1815 VOL: 37 PAGE: 330
FROM: Sarah Rigby PRICE: \$220

TO: Joseph Ridgaway

NOTES "One lot of ground distinguished in the plat St. Michaels, number 33"
Begins at the NE corner of lot 32 in St. Mary's Square; run with St. Mary's
Square 60 feet to lot number 34; with #34 120 feet to lot number 25 etc.
"one half acres more or less"

YEAR: 1804 VOL: 31 PAGE: 53
FROM: James Dodson PRICE: \$55

TO: Rigby Hopkins

NOTES Lot number 33.

YEAR: 1804 VOL: 30 PAGE: 598
FROM: Richard Skinner PRICE: \$40

TO: James Dodson

NOTES Lot number 33.

YEAR: 1779 VOL: 21 PAGE: 116
FROM: James Braddock PRICE: p150 cm
TO: Richard Skinner, Gent.

NOTES Lot number 33. Dimensions are 60'x 120'.

The lot is part of "Jane's Progress". I have no explanation for the change in
depth of the lot to 116 feet or for the various widths - from 34'3" to 41 feet!
The price is quite high but the date and the fact that it was not paid in specie
may be the reason.

Lots 32 - 35 when sold by James Braddock were 60 x 120 feet. Despite instructions
to honor Braddock's deeds and plat, the surveyor (Samuel Tennant) made the lots
100 feet deep! As far as I know, this has never been contested...but someday it
might wind up in court.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sashes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Candles, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

S. DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ES. BROWN, Real Estate Agent and Collector.

SP. J., Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Indicate Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.

JAMES BETH, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

N. T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.

EL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

GEORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

PH. HERGENSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

ER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is useful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

RISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

C. R. LEONARD, Freight of Grain of all kinds to any point.

AS BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

M. HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Cigars, &c.

KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

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T-686
SEYMOUR HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942



T-686

JOSEPH J. SEYMOUR HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

East elevation

12/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust